

military. Their incredible sacrifices and courage in the face of innumerable hazards have been critical to the preservation of the freedom, security, and prosperity enjoyed that we as Americans have come to love, enjoy, and even expect.

Likewise, I do not believe there is a person in this body, or a person in this building, who does not feel an intense tragedy in seeing these men and women make the ultimate sacrifice—whether it is seeing the loss of such extraordinary Americans, or the immense pain and sympathy for their families and loved ones.

When the United States has fought in wars outside and inside of its borders to restore freedom and human dignity, they were the ones who made the true sacrifices. The United States has spent its national treasure and shed its blood in fighting those wars.

Our government has sought to do its part in honoring these brave men and women. The National Cemetery Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs maintains 128 national cemeteries that serve as the final resting place for nearly 3,000,000 of these veterans and their dependents. Each year, millions of Americans visit these national cemeteries, memorials, and markers.

Across the globe, we find similar efforts. Overseas sites annually recognize Memorial Day with speeches, a reading of the Memorial Day Proclamation, wreath laying ceremonies, military bands and units, and the decoration of each grave site with the flag of the United States and that of the host country.

Wherever the proud fallen American soldier is honored, these splendid commemorative sites inspire patriotism, evoke gratitude, and teach history.

My residents of my city, Houston, have long honored their veterans. Within city limits stands the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center. It was awarded the Robert W. Carey Organizational Excellence Award in 2005, the Robert W. Carey Circle of Excellence Quality Award in 2007, and re-designation for Magnet Recognition for Excellence in Nursing Services in 2008.

The MEDVAMC serves as the primary health care provider for more than 120,000 veterans in southeast Texas and over 13,000 from Houston. Veterans from around the country are referred to the MEDVAMC for countless medical services, and their outpatient clinics logged nearly 900,000 outpatient visits in fiscal year 2008 alone. All this in a state with over 1.7 million veterans, 247,000 of which are disabled and over 25,000 buried in her soil.

There is another great example that comes to mind, of how my district has honored those who defend them. In Memorial Plaza, stands a pillar holding a stone globe; written on the pillar are several names of US soldiers, fallen in the Second World War, as well as a quote by Father Dennis Edward O'Brien, chaplain of the U.S. Marines:

“IT’S THE SOLDIER: When the country has been the need, it has always been the soldier! It’s the soldier, not the newspaper who has given us Freedom of the Press. It’s the soldier, not the poet, who has given us Freedom of Speech. It’s the soldier, not the campus organizer, who has given us the Freedom to Demonstrate. It’s the soldier who salutes the flag, serves under the flag and whose coffin is draped by the flag who gives the protester the right to burn the flag. And it’s the

soldier who is called upon to defend our way of life!”

That is why I proudly join my colleagues in strongly urging Americans and people of all nationalities to visit national cemeteries, memorials, and markers on Memorial Day. It is so that they may see words like these, even if it is only once a year, and know where the spirit of American generosity, sacrifice, and courage are displayed and commemorated.

IN APPRECIATION OF SUPER-INTENDENT OF SCHOOLS BARBARA OLDS

HON. JACKIE SPEIER-

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, Barbara Olds has served the children of South San Francisco as a teacher, principal, Superintendent and everything in between for more than forty years, since taking her first job as a teacher at South San Francisco High School in 1966.

Superintendent Olds' legacy of service is a remarkable achievement, one truly fitting of recognition. She is set to retire at the end of this academic year to give herself time to pursue her many and varied interests.

Barbara Olds was the type of teacher that kids tell their parents about and parents pray that their children get assigned to her classroom. To Barbara, instruction never ended at the bell and learning was never confined to textbooks. During her 14-years as a teacher, Ms. Olds tirelessly gave of her free time for the benefit of her students and fellow educators, serving as Director of Student Government, Director of Student Activities, and serving the South San Francisco Classroom Teachers Association in many capacities—including as a member of the Negotiating Council and as both President and Vice President.

Since moving into school administration in 1979, Barbara served as an Assistant Principal for Discipline and Attendance, then Counseling and Guidance, before being named Principal of South San Francisco High School in 1991.

In 2003, her excellent work, unparalleled standing in the community and clear passion for education led the SSF Unified School District Board of Trustees to elevate Barbara Olds to the position of Superintendent of Schools. Since that time the district has thrived, despite difficult financial times.

Barbara Olds received her Bachelor of Arts and Secondary Teaching Credential from San Francisco State University and a Master's of Public Administration from the College of Notre Dame in Belmont. She further advanced her education with an IDEA Fellowship in 1989.

Madam Speaker, I have been privileged to know Superintendent Olds these many years and can attest to the fact that she shaped thousands of young minds and encouraged countless students to engage in their world and pursue their dreams. Her love and passion for education was passed onto her son, Robert, who continues the family tradition as a fourth grade teacher.

Our community and our nation are better places because of the work of Barbara Olds.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the grateful citizens of the City of South San Francisco, I thank her and wish Barbara much joy and success in the years to come.

HONORING POLICE OFFICERS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PROFESSIONALS DURING POLICE WEEK

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 426, “Honoring police officers and law enforcement professionals during Police Week”. I would like to thank my colleague Representative JERRY MCNERNEY, as well as the co-sponsors, for introducing this resolution.

I stand in support of this important resolution, because police officers of every rank and from every walk of life are working every day to keep communities across our nation safe. These hard working men and women perform a variety of duties to pursue justice and maintain public safety, and selflessly put their lives on the line to keep their neighbors and countrymen safe.

These Americans are reminded of these threats all too often—in just the last decade, hundreds of police officers were killed in the line of duty, and in just the first four months of 2009 more than 40 officers around the country have made the ultimate sacrifice. And as if that weren't bad enough, police officers and law enforcement personnel have been not been immune to the collapse of our economy, and have been adversely affected by the current economic situation.

In my home city of Houston, nearly 70 officers of the law have been killed in the line of duty, and 11 police officers have fallen in the past decade alone.

The most recent tragedy came less than six months ago, when Police Officer Timothy Scott Abernethy was shot and killed during a foot pursuit of a suspect who fled following a traffic stop. Officer Abernethy had lost sight of the man as he chased him around a building in an apartment complex. After going around the corner the man hid behind a gate and then shot the officer in the head as he ran by. Tim was transported to Memorial Hermann Hospital where he succumbed to his wounds a short time later. He is survived by his wife, son, daughter, parents, and siblings.

Before him, there was Police Officer Gary Allen Gryder. He was struck and killed by a drunk driver while directing traffic at a construction site on the Katy Freeway. The drunk driver drove through a barricade and struck Officer Gryder and another officer without braking. The vehicle continued until striking a brick wall. Gryder is survived by his wife, son, step-daughter, two grandchildren, parents, and two sisters.

And before either of them, there was Officer Rodney Joseph Johnson. Officer Johnson had stopped a large white pickup truck occupied by a man and woman on Randolph at Braniff, just south of Hobby Airport, at about 5:30 p.m. He placed the male driver—who, it would turn out, was in the country illegally—under arrest after he was unable to produce a drivers license. After handcuffing the male, he placed

him in the backseat of the patrol car and then returned to the driver's seat. The subject in the backseat was able to move his hands to his front, retrieve a concealed handgun, and then shot Officer Johnson in the back of the head four times.

Despite being fatally wounded, Officer Johnson was able to push an emergency button, alerting dispatch to the incident. When other officers arrived, the male was still handcuffed and sitting in the patrol car, and the weapon was recovered. Officer Johnson was taken to Ben Taub Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

For these reasons, and more, our country has found respect for these brave men and women throughout its history. In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation declaring May 15 as Peace Officers Memorial Day to honor law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty, and to designate the calendar week in which May 15 occurs as Police Week.

And it is this tradition that we continue today, as this body, the House of Representatives, honors police officers for their efforts to create safer and more secure communities, and who risk their lives daily to protect Americans.

I wholeheartedly agree with my colleagues that Police Week provides an opportunity to honor police officers and law enforcement personnel for their selfless acts of bravery, and that police officers and law enforcement personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice should be remembered and honored.

So let there be no doubt that the House of Representatives expresses its strong support for the Nation's police officers and law enforcement personnel.

IN APPRECIATION FOR THE EXCEPTIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE OF
MARILYN MILLER

HON. JACKIE SPEIER—

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 21, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, the end of every school year is a time of change as graduates move on and students move up. In California's Twelfth Congressional District, this school year ends by bidding farewell to an unparalleled education professional, Marilyn Miller, Superintendent of the Hillsborough City School District.

Ms. Miller came to our community in 1975, with ten years of teaching under her belt in Southern California and Illinois. Her experience, passion for teaching and devotion to her students were immediately recognized and within five years, Marilyn was promoted to Principal of South Hillsborough School. In 1984, she was given even greater responsibility when she moved to William H. Crocker Middle School, where she stayed until ascending to the Superintendent's position 17 years ago.

Under Superintendent Miller's extraordinary leadership, Hillsborough schools have been singled out for local, statewide, national and even international awards. Nine times in her tenure, Hillsborough schools have been

named a California Distinguished School, while on ten occasions the district has been awarded a J. Russell Kent Award for outstanding programs in San Mateo County public schools. Under Marilyn's stewardship, Hillsborough schools have also received four National Blue Ribbon Awards and in 1993, received the "Best in Services Recognition" from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences.

As both a principal and superintendent, Marilyn's tireless dedication has led to numerous public and private grants for her school system, including funding for science, technology, reading and reforming curriculum.

Madam Speaker, I know from personal experience that everything Marilyn has done in her educational career has been to further the excellence and opportunities of the children in her care. Nevertheless, she has been singled out for numerous personal recognitions, including being a finalist for the National Safety Council's Principal of the Year; elected President of the Association of California School Administrators; State Coordinator of the California Partnership Network Schools; Chairperson of the ACSA Middle School State Conference; and awarded College of Notre Dame, Belmont's Alumnus of the Year; Hinsdale, Illinois' Teacher of the Year; and San Mateo County's Outstanding Educator.

Marilyn has represented our community and our nation at international conferences, including presenting to the Stockholm School of Economics and serving as the United States representative to the New Leaders Conference in Singapore. In addition, she regularly attended the nationally-acclaimed Harvard University Superintendents' Forum.

Marilyn Miller studied History and English at the University of California, Berkeley before transferring to San Jose State University for her Education Degree. She went on to receive a Masters in Public Administration at Belmont's College of Notre Dame.

Madam Speaker, Marilyn has earned her retirement, even if the hole she leaves will be impossible to fill. She recently welcomed a new grandson, Cole, who with granddaughter, Erin, will happily occupy whatever free time Marilyn finds herself with. She and her always supportive husband, Dr. Arthur Miller, will now be able to spend more time with the little ones as well as their daughter Ashleigh and sons Garreth and Heath. As with all great public servants, their service is largely dependent on the amount of support they receive at home, so it is fitting to thank Marilyn's loving family for sharing their wife and mother with the greater community for all these years.

PACT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 19, 2009

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation, H.R. 1676, the Prevent All Cigarette Trafficking Act of 2009 or PACT Act. This bill was introduced by Representative WIENER of New York. This leg-

islation makes it a federal offense for any seller making a "delivery sale" to fail to comply with all state excise tax, sales tax licensing, and tax sampling laws. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I also thank my legislative director, Arthur D. Sidney.

Every year tens of billions of cigarettes disappear into a lucrative black market for tobacco products and are trafficked throughout the world. Smuggling harms public health and minors by undermining tobacco tax policies. Smuggling also makes tax-free cigarettes available to minors who might otherwise quit smoking. It is reported that cigarette smuggling also helps finance criminal activity and terrorist organizations.

By diverting cigarettes while they are in the wholesale distribution chain, large-scale smugglers generally avoid all taxes. Increasingly, cigarette smuggling is on the rise throughout the United States. The U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has reported that the number of ATF tobacco smuggling investigations has increased from 10 in 1998 to 425 in 2005. Some of these investigations and convictions have occurred in Texas.

Currently, the Jenkins Act, 15 USC 375, requires any person who sells and ships cigarettes across a state line to a buyer, other than a licensed distributor, to report the sale to the buyer's state tobacco collection officials. Compliance allows states to collect a cigarette excise tax. There are misdemeanor penalties for violation. Smugglers are circumventing the Jenkins Act by virtue of internet-based tobacco sales. Sales of tobacco through the internet have resulted in the loss of billions of dollars in tax revenue.

The Contraband Cigarette Trafficking Act, 18 USC 2342, makes it illegal for persons to knowingly ship, transport, receive, possess, sell, distribute, or purchase contraband cigarettes or contraband smokeless tobacco. It also prohibits a person from knowingly making any false statement or representation with respect to information required by law to be kept in the records of any person who ships, sells, distributes cigarettes in excess of 10,000 in a single transaction.

Cigarette smuggling is on the rise due to the internet and sales to and between Native American tribes and others. The PACT Act introduced by the Honorable Anthony Weiner makes it a federal offense for any seller to fail to comply with all state excise tax, sales tax licensing, and tax stamping laws. This bill also increases the Jenkins Act's existing penalties from a misdemeanor to a felony. It further empowers states to enforce the Jenkins Act against out of state sellers sending delivery sales into its territory by giving the Attorney General the power to seek injunctive relief and civil penalties. The Act prohibits the shipment of cigarettes and tobacco through the U.S. Postal Service and provides the ATF with the ability to inspect a distributor's business. Refusal to submit to inspection results in additional penalties. Internet sellers are required to verify a seller's age and identity through databases and the person accepting delivery must verify age and identity when signing for delivery.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.